(b) if so, at which locations such universities would be set up;

(c) the criteria adopted to select places for setting up those universities;

(d) the steps likely to be taken to establish those universities in less developed areas and regions; and

(e) the steps proposed to spread higher education there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) It is proposed to establish subject to availability of resources, 30 new Central Universities by the year 2014, so as to have at least one Central University in each State. The establishment of new Central Universities will address the concerns of quality access and quality in higher education.

Development of Kochin University

758. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop Kochin University of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted any proposal in this regard; and,

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY Of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the University Grants Commission, a proposal from Cochin University of Science and Technology has been received by the Commission; and eligibility of the University for grants in the Eleventh Plan, would be subject to availability of funds.

Assessment of universities and colleges

759. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, after National Accreditation and Assessment Council's survey report that 90 per cent of colleges and 68 per cent of universities were of a medium to poor quality, the Prime Minister directed for making the assessment of colleges and universities mandatory and asked the Ministry to work out the modalities with the aim to increase enrolment in higher education from the current 10 per cent to 15 per cent by 2011-12;

(b) whether UGC has also decided to increase infrastructure in the existing institutes, to enhance capacity and open new universities and colleges; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) While no directive has been issued for making the assessment of colleges and universities mandatory, this Ministry is working out the modalities for increasing enrolment in higher education upto 15 per cent by the end of the Eleventh Plan period. Subject to finalization of the Eleventh Plan, it is proposed to expand the capacity of existing institutions, as well as to establish new institutions to address issues of access, quality and equity in higher education.

Bill for foreign education providers

760. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing a Bill to open up the country's education sector to foreign education providers;

(b) if so, whether Government had any consultations with stakeholders in the country's educational system such as students' organizations, organizations representing the teaching community, etc.;

(c) if so, the outcome of such consultations; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider to undertake the consultation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The present policy of the Government permits Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the education sector. A legislative proposal on entry and operations of foreign educational institutions in the country is under consideration of the Government. The matter relating to entry of foreign universities in India was discussed at a Conference of State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education, held at Bangalore on January 10-11, 2005. The matter was also considered by a Committee of Experts constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao. The All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisation (AIFUCTO) has been opposing entry of foreign educational providers under GATS and privatization and commercialization of education.

Vocationalisation of secondary education

761. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether vocationalisation of secondary education is a centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) whether the scheme is also being implemented by the Gujarat Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have not released the amount of Rs. 4.67 crore, as part of the grant under the scheme;